

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE **A-23**

WASHINGTON POST  
29 May 1985

# Gulf's Depot Targeted, Says South African *Captive in Angola Rebuts Officials*

By Patrick Reyna  
Associated Press

**LUANDA, Angola, May 28—A** South African commando captured by Angolan troops said today he and his men were sent to blow up a Gulf Oil storage depot in northern Angola, not to gather intelligence as his government said.

Two other soldiers were killed and Winan Petrus du Toit was wounded and captured. He said they were part of a larger force, which he commanded, that broke up into small groups.

[Earlier, in Johannesburg, South African Defense Minister Magnus Malan told Parliament that the soldiers were on their way to a suspected guerrilla base, and he warned that the captured du Toit could be expected to make a possibly damaging statement, special correspondent Allister Sparks reported.]

Du Toit said at a news conference that South African special forces began planning the raid into the northern province in January, with the object of creating "considerable economic setback to the Angolan government."

He said he and his men were sent to place mines at the oil depot "with the aim of destroying the storage tanks at Cabinda Gulf."

Angola's Marxist government gets 90 percent of its foreign exchange from the oil operations in Cabinda Province. The American Gulf Oil is the largest operator.

The South African was brought from the capital's military hospital in pajamas, with his arm in a sling. At the two-hour news conference, du Toit said he was shot when Angolan regulars attacked his unit near the refinery.

Foreign Minister R.F. Botha of South Africa said after Angola announced du Toit's capture last Tuesday that the soldiers were looking for members of the South-West Africa People's Organization and the African National Congress.

Asked whether Botha's claim was correct, Du Toit replied: "No. We were not looking for ANC or SWAPO, we were attacking Gulf Oil. But by that action we hoped to reduce Angolan government aid to those groups."

The oil-rich northern province is about 1,200 miles north of the border between Angola and South-West Africa, also called Namibia.

Paulino Pinto Joao, Angola's information minister, said destruction of the Malongo depot would have cost Angola "\$30 million worth of crude oil, \$200 million in equipment and another \$250 million in lost production during reconstruction." He said Angolan authorities are preparing for negotiations with Gulf for a five-year renewal of the contract, so U.S. interests "would also have been hurt."

*Sparks added from Johannesburg:*

Malan denied that the troops' presence in Angola constituted a violation of the Lusaka Agreement on disengagement, claiming that dealt only with a defined area of southern Angola.

Malan said South Africa had been aware for some time that guerrillas of the ANC and SWAPO were grouping in northern Angola. "An operation to collect intelligence and to pinpoint intelligence bases cannot be equated with an attack operation," he added.

Malan said the soldiers were only lightly armed. Angola charges that they were carrying silencer-equipped guns, fire bombs and 16 contact mines.